

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 31 and 36. Please amend claims 24, 27, 30, 34, and 35. Please enter new claims 39 and 40. The claims are set forth below.

1-22 Cancelled

23. (Original) A method for retracting an introducer needle of an intravenous catheter placement device, comprising:

 inserting a tip of the introducer needle and an intravenous catheter into a human body;

 simultaneously depressing and releasing release tabs of a hollow body of the an intravenous catheter placement device, thereby retracting the tip of the introducer needle inside an end of the intravenous catheter;

 inserting the intravenous catheter further into the human body; simultaneously depressing the release tabs thereby triggering an energy storage device in contact with a needle hub; and

 projecting the needle hub and needle into the hollow body and retaining the needle hub and needle in the hollow body.

24. (Currently Amended) A method for retracting an introducer needle of an intravenous catheter placement device into a hollow body, comprising:

 inserting a tip of the introducer needle with a catheter into a patient; and

~~simultaneously depressing a~~ release tab[s] affixed to the hollow body at least once, thereby triggering an energy storage device in contact with a needle hub to blunt the tip of the introducer needle into the catheter and to retract the introducer needle into the hollow body.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, further comprising:

orienting the hollow body such that a message on the hollow body is readable by a clinician.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25, further comprising: verifying that the catheter is inserted into the correct location by observing blood flash-back into a magnified transparent verification cavity in a needle hub.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24, further comprising:

confirming retraction of the introducer needle by observation of an audible clicking sound when the release tabs are depressed; and

securing the introducer needle in the hollow body by force of an the energy storage device.

28. (Original) The method of claim 24, further comprising:

eliminating blood flow from the catheter into the hollow body utilizing a boot cooperating with an interior surface of a catheter head such that blood flow is restricted from flowing back into the hollow body.

29. (Original) The method of claim 24, further comprising:

eliminating blood flow from the catheter into the hollow body utilizing a shuttle and an energy storage device positioned in a passageway of a nose that couples to the hollow body such that when the introducer needle passes the shuttle, the shuttle becomes unrestrained and is projected into the passageway by the energy storage device and blocks the passageway, thereby restricting blood flow back into the hollow body.

30. (Original) The method of claim 24, further comprising:

eliminating blood flow from the catheter into the hollow body utilizing a shuttle; and

an energy storage device positioned in a passageway of a nose that couples to the hollow body.

31. Cancelled

32-33 Cancelled

34. (Currently Amended) A method for retracting an introducer needle of an intravenous catheter placement device into a hollow body, comprising:

inserting a tip of the needle with a catheter into a patient;

blunting the tip of the needle into the catheter by depressing a release tab[s] affixed to the hollow body, thereby triggering an energy storage device in contact with a needle hub; and

additionally depressing the release tab[s] to trigger said energy storage device and retract the needle into the hollow body.

35. (Currently Amended) A process for placing an intravenous catheter into a human body, comprising:

inserting an introducer needle with a catheter substantially covering the introducer needle into a human body;

triggering an energy storage device in contact with a needle hub;

partially retracting the introducer needle in response to said energy storage device inside an end of the catheter to blunt a tip of the introducer needle; and

fully inserting the catheter into the human body.

36. Cancelled

37-38 Cancelled

39. (New) A method for retracting an introducer needle of an intravenous catheter placement device into a hollow body comprising:

inserting a tip of an introducer needle with a catheter into a patient;
simultaneously depressing a release tab affixed to the hollow body at least once to blunt the tip of the introducer needle into the catheter and retract the introducer needle into the hollow body; and,

eliminating blood flow from the catheter into the hollow body utilizing the shuttle and an energy storage device positioned in the passageway of a nose that couples the hollow body such that when the introducer needle passes the shuttle, the shuttle becomes unrestrained and is projected into the passageway by the energy storage device and blocks the passageway thereby restricting blood flow back into the body.

40. (New) A method for retracting an introducer needle of an intravenous catheter placement device into a hollow body comprising:

inserting a tip of the introducer needle with a catheter into a patient;
depressing a release tab affixed to the hollow body at least once thereby triggering an energy storage device in contact with a needle hub to blunt the tip of the introducer needle into the catheter and retract the introducer needle into the hollow body; and,

eliminating blood flow from the catheter into the hollow body utilizing a shuttle.